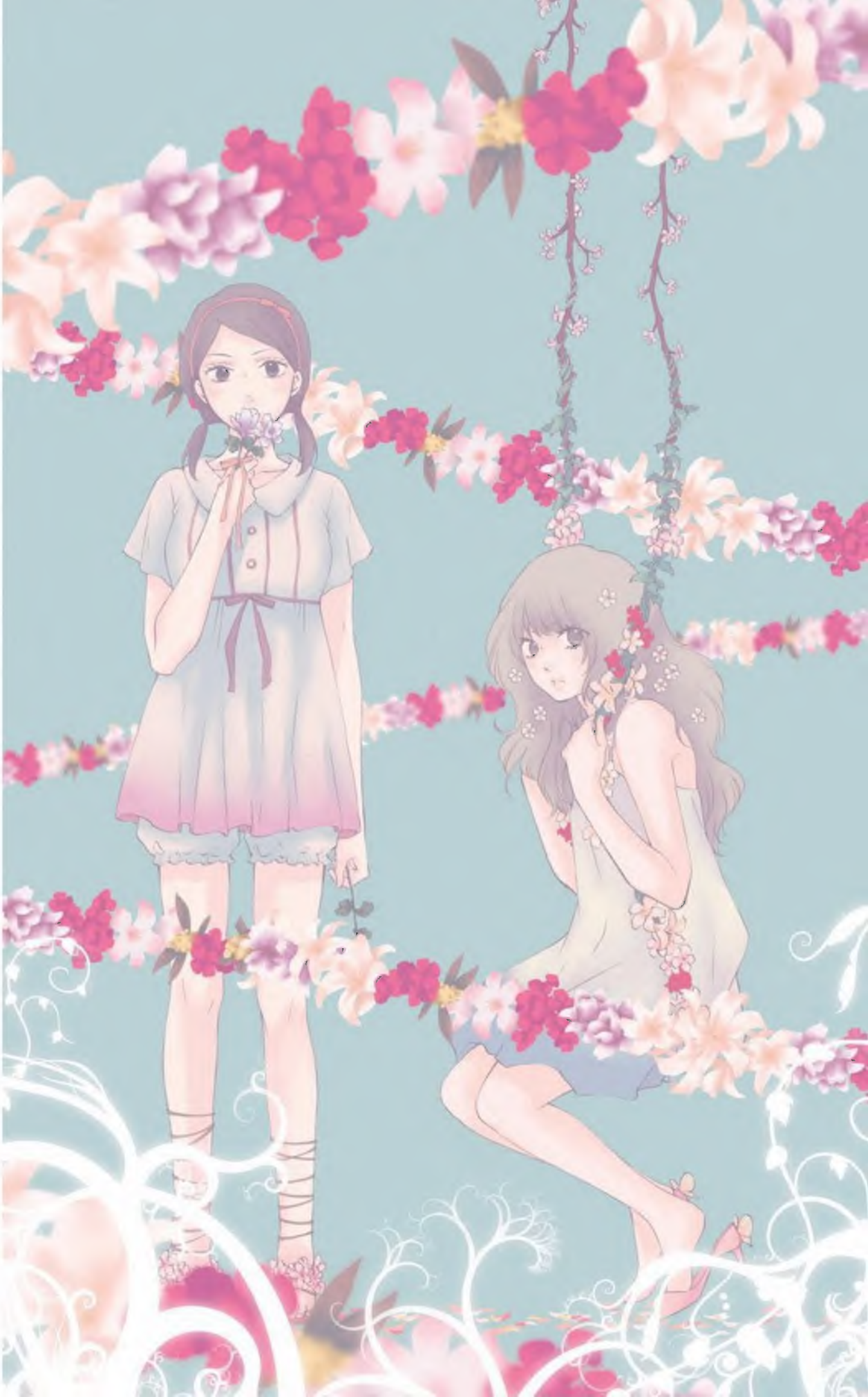
JUMP COMICS SQ.

この音とまれ！ 5

アミュー

★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。デジタル配信用に再編集を行っています。



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アミュー

登場人物紹介

久遠愛

箏曲部新入部員。祖父の大事にしていた箏について深く知るために入部する。ケンカっ早く不良と誤解されているが、仲間を大事にする心の持ち主。

倉田武蔵

箏曲部部長。一人きりの部員だったが、新たに獲得した仲間と共に、全国大会を目指す。生真面目な性格で、悩みを一人で抱え込んでしまう一面もある。

鳳月さとわ

箏曲部新入部員。箏の家元"鳳月会"の生まれで、数々のコンクールで受賞した天才少女。母と衝突し、実家を出てアパートで一人暮らしをしている。

あらすじ

さとわの秘密を知った箏曲部員達だが、妃呂の思惑とは反対に、さとわが正直に話してくれた事で絆が強まるのだった。そして反省した妃呂を改めて迎え入れた箏曲部は、さとわを慕うかずさから強豪校の合同勉強会に招待され!?

堺通孝
箏曲部新入部員。愛のためと言った実康を茶化していたが、彼も愛の力になりたいと考えていた。
水原光太
箏曲部新入部員。人なつこい性格で、すぐ抱きつくクセがある。愛とは実康や通孝同様、中学の時からの友達。
足立実康
箏曲部新入部員。中学生の時、高校生相手のケンカで愛に助けられる。その恩返しとして入部を決意。
来栖妃呂
武蔵の同級生。中学時代に友人から裏切られ、人間不信に陥っていたが、箏曲部に入部した事で立ち直る。
高岡哲生
愛とは子供の頃からのくされ縁。数少ない愛の理解者で、彼が起こす問題をフォローすることも。
凰かずさ
箏の家元"華凰会"の跡取り。幼いころから、さとわの演奏を耳にする機会が多く、憧れを抱いている。
滝浪涼香
箏曲部顧問。指導する気は全くないが、さとわのレベルの高さには気付いているようで…。

この音とまれ！

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AS ALWAYS, ITS BITING COLDNESS SEEPS THROUGH ME.

A WINTER WIND WHISTLES THROUGH THE AIR...

この音とまれ!

JC4巻発売記念
センターカラー46P!!

アミュー

↓この表紙が目印!

#16 A SUDDEN, SHARP NOTE

この音とまれ！

THE JOINT PRACTICE BEGINS PEACEFULLY...?!

KOTO CLUB

CHAAAAAAAAAAAN~!!!

SA TO WA

.....

I'M SO GLAD. I KNEW YOU'D COME!!!

DODGE

BANG

Gya Gya

SO THIS IS MEIRYO'S KOTO CLUB...

I TAKE A BATH EVERY DAY!

Uuh Uuh

What the hell is wrong with you?!

Shhh Shhh

IT'S OKAY! I HAVE AN AIR-FRESHENER SPRAY!

Mutter

SCARY... THEY'RE ALL DELINQUENT-TYPES...

DO THEY REALLY PLAY THE KOTO?

EH, WHO ARE THEY...? TOKISE'S KOTO CLUB...?

THEY DON'T LOOK FRIENDLY ...

ARE YOU SURE THEY'RE NOT JUST HERE TO MAKE FUN OF US?

.....

THAT WOULD BE REALLY ANNOYING.

WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT THE KOTO.

HAH?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ALL MUMBLING ABOUT?

IF YOU'VE GOT A PROBLEM

KUDOU-KUN!

AH.

AREN'T THEY THE PEOPLE THAT KAZUSA-CHAN LIKES?

WHOA♡ SHE'S A BABE...

UH...

...GUYS ...?

SO MANY ...?

UH... UM... DON'T TELL ME

YOU'RE ALL IN THE KOTO CLUB AS WELL...?

HUH?

tremble

YEAH WE ARE. SO WHAT?

M-ME TOO!!! I PLAY THE KOTO TOO!

UWAH... SERIOUSLY?! FIVE GUYS? THIS IS SO COOL!

AND YOU, YOU PLAY THE KOTO TOO?!

YOU TOO?!

shake shake

GLOMP

!!?

REALLY? BROTHERS !!!

I'M A FIRST YEAR AT MEIRYO. THE NAME'S ***KIRIYUU OUSUKE!***

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET SO MANY GUYS IN A KOTO CLUB! I'M REALLY HAPPY!

OH YEAH.

IF IT'S OKAY, CAN I GET YOUR NUMBERS?

OUSUKE.

fwip

BUT HE TOTALLY IGNORES US. I'VE NEVER SPOKEN WITH HIM.

NO, NO. THERE'S ONE MORE GUY.

Isn't that mean?

Ignores

I ACTUALLY FEEL A BIT EMBARRASSED.

YOU SAID THAT QUITE BLUNTLY.

OH... I SEE...

HUG

SORRY.

WERE YOU LONELY BECAUSE I WAS GETTING ALONG SO WELL WITH THE STUDENTS FROM THE OTHER SCHOOL?

KOU-CHAN!

YOU'RE TOO NOISY.

CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE QUIETER?

I THINK WE'LL GET ALONG.

...HERE, I'VE GOT A BAND-AID.

.....

trembletrembletrembletr

bleh

SATOWA-CHAN,

LISTEN CLOSELY TO OUR PERFORMANCE!

H.MESAKA ISN'T JUST THE TOP N THE PREFECTURE. THEY'VE COME OUT TOP NATIONALLY!

DAMN.

ARE THEY SERIOUSLY KANAGAWA'S TOP?

H MESAKA'S PERFOR-MANCES ARE WHAT YOU CALL

PERFECTLY IN UNISON.

WE..L, I YEAH. GUESS YOU'..L UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU HEAR THEM.

EH?

IS THAT SO?

IN UNISON...?

...BEING IN UNISON DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN YOU'RE GOOD THOUGH.

musically speaking

Ahaha

YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.

...BUT,

YOU'LL NEED TO LEARN TO PLAY AS ONE TO EVEN THINK ABOUT THE NATIONALS.

Bah

smile

Shit... Probably impossible...

Eh? I don't get it. Aren't we in unison if we just play together?

Waha ha

Gya Gya

Play as one... with these guys...

in unison

in unison

"IT'LL BE A GOOD CHANCE FOR THOSE GUYS TO SEE REALITY."

Don't strain yourselves

Shut up, Takinami!

SHUT UP!

WAHA HA!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU GUYS!

blunt

YOUR GROUP WAS LATE SO PLEASE DON'T COMPLAIN.

MEIRYO'S PERFORMANCE HAS ALREADY ENDED.

WAS THERE A SUDDEN CHANGE OF PLANS?

EXCUSE ME... TODAY WAS MEANT TO BE A JOINT PRACTICE SESSION BETWEEN MEIRYO AND HIMESAKA BUT...

AH.

SPEAKING OF WHICH...

...Meiryo's performance... I'm not sure if I'm disappointed or actually relieved that I didn't get to hear it.

S-SORRY ...

Kou-chan, you're so cold~

EVERYBODY, PLEASE SIT DOWN.

HIMESAKA'S PERFORMANCE WILL BEGIN SHORTLY.

THE PIECE IS TITLED "DOUBLE PERSONALITY."

PLEASE ENJOY.

How...

WITH THIS MANY PEOPLE?

DOUBLE PERSON-ALITY!

SFX: TANTANN

WOW

SFX: Bii Bii

Their presence is... really strong...

HOW...

WHAT ...

SFX: PLUCK (4X)

MELODY 1 | MELODY 2

THE TWO MELODIES INTERWEAVE

SO THAT IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE IS ONLY ONE MELODY.

YES. THIS PIECE IS A DUET

ARE THERE TWO PARTS TO THE MELODY .?

THE RHYTHM IS ALSO VERY FAST.

EVEN THE SLIGHTEST SLOWING DOWN WILL DESTROY IT'S SOUND.

THIS IS WITHOUT DOUBT A HARD PIECE.

IT'S TRICKY ENOUGH FOR TWO PEOPLE,

BUT TO PLAY IT AT THIS SPEED WITH SO MANY MEMBERS...

AS IF IT WAS ONLY PLAYED BY A SINGLE PERSON...!

A flawless melody

comprised of two parts...

In "Kudou," there are only two sections like this,

but it'll be very tricky to master.

That's why I understand.

This is

just how good they are.

Most of the members should have only joined the club when they entered high school...

BUT TO BE THIS GOOD...

AH, THE KEY CHANGED.

WE'RE IN THE SECOND MOVEMENT THERE ARE THREE IN TOTAL

They're really amazing

I-If we work hard, we'll be able...

It doesn't seem difficult to play

THIS IS... BAD...

SFX: TON TERE TERE TERE TERE TERE TERE TERE

SFX TERE TERE TERE TERE TERE TERE

WHAT... WHAT'RE THEY DOING? PLUCKING?!

AND AT A HIGH SPEED

SFX. TON TON TON TON TON TON TON TON TON TON

Ha_ hehehe

They're playing a melody just by plucking...

Does plucking actually sound like this_?

Last year,

after Himesaka's performance...

after their performance at the Nationals,

I was hit really hard.

But...

We got to listen and watch Houtsuki-san's performance up close.

Our club was practically reborn this year.

I thought we'd definitely be stronger this time...

We were acknowledged by the school.

But...

"EVERYONE

LET'S AIM FOR THE NATIONALS!"

LISTEN CLOSELY AND WITNESS...

But now, more than last year...

I understand the difference.

WITNESS THE DISTANCE IN ABILITY BETWEEN US AND YOU...!

NONE OF YOU...

NONE OF YOU ARE WORTHY OF SATOWA-CHAN!!!

SFX: DAN!

They managed to play in unison and at such a high speed until the end without any mistakes...!

This is the level of the High School Nationals!

I MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO NAIVE...

WAHH

"LET'S GO TO THE NATIONALS WITH THESE MEMBERS!"

ARE YOU GUYS AIMING FOR THAT AT NATIONALS?

Y-YEAH, IT WAS PRETTY GOOD...

YEAH.

HEY! THEY WERE PERFECTLY IN UNISON, WEREN'T THEY?

...DAMMIT.

SO THAT CURLY-HEAD WASN'T JUST BOASTING...

I'D REALLY LIKE TO LET YOU LISTEN TO OUR PERFORMANCE AS TOKYO'S REPRESENTATIVES.

AHHH~ THIS IS SUCH A GREAT CHANCE.

DASH DASH DASH DASH DASH

WELL, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE BETTER THAN TODAY'S PERFORMANCE THEN.

HUH?

SATOWA-CHAN!

DID YOU HEAR IT?! OUR PERFORMANCE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?!!

You're so mean, Kazusa-chan!

AHHHHHH

...IT WAS AMAZING

TO PERFORM DOUBLE PERSONALITY WITH SUCH A LARGE GROUP ...

C'MON, HURRY UP AND JOIN US!

NO, I—

TUG

TUG

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO EVERYBODY—

GRAB

PUFU

SHUT UP, CURLY-HEAD!

CURLY ...?!

HEY! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

GET THOSE DIRTY HANDS OFF HER RIGHT NOW!

—

QUIT YAPPING.

YOU'RE ANNOY-ING.

HEY!

THIS PERSON'S HAPPY WHERE SHE IS.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR LAST TIME?

YOU GUYS JUST AREN'T WORTHY OF SATOWA-CHAN!

IS IT BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL TOO CRAPPY?

WHY IS IT THAT YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND AFTER SEEING OUR PERFOR-MANCE?!

THAT'S SOMETHING WE KNOW BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE!

JUST HAVE TO CATCH UP TO HER.

BUT WE

UGH...

...OH.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CHASE LIKE CRAZY!

OUR LEVELS MIGHT BE LOW BUT AT LEAST WE KNOW HOW FAR BEHIND WE ARE!

THAT'S IT!

"WHY DON'T YOU PLAY?"

"I CAN'T KEEP UP."

SATOWA-SAN,

WE'RE GONNA DO OUR BEST!

YEAH.

To catch up...

...!

But how...?

AH... TOKISE'S KOTO CLUB WAS AN INTERESTING BUNCH.

IN WHAT WAY?!

IT'S SO FRUS-TRATING ...

THOSE GUYS ARE CLUELESS ABOUT THE KOTO AND YET... SATOWA-CHAN...

CLUELESS... HUH.

WHAT?

I REALLY WANTED TO LET TOKISE HEAR...

...WHAT A SHAME.

HEY, OUSUKE!

YEP, YEP~ ♪

...NOTHING?

.....

Not just a "uniform" performance,

but a "REAL" one.

IT FELT TOO MILITARY THOUGH.

STILL, THAT WAS AMAZING...

HIMESAKA'S PERFORMANCE.

EH...?
KURATA?
surprise
NAKA-YAMA...
TSUDA...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE! WE HAVEN'T MET SINCE GRADUATING FROM JUNIOR HIGH!
I KNEW IT!
IT'S REALLY YOU!
clench
Why... do they have to appear now...?
YOU COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED AFTER GRADUATION. WE WERE REALLY WORRIED!
...SORRY.

I want to escape.
EH, BUT HOW COME YOU'RE AT MEIRYO?
WE HAD A SATURDAY LECTURE.
KOTO...
EH? WHAT'S THAT?
HEH, WHAT CLUB?
UH...CLUB ACTIVITIES... A PRACTICE SESSION...
UM...
A CLUB THAT... PLAYS THE KOTO.
KOTO! WHAT'S WITH YOU?!
WHAT THE HECK! ARE YOU KIDDING?
HA HA HA
YOU MEAN THAT INSTRU-MENT...?
...KOTO?
PFT.

HAHA...

HAHA.

HA...

STARE

JOLT

WHAT'S SO FUNNY, HUH?

KUDOU-KUN! IT'S FINE!!!

YOU SHUT UP! THIS GUY IS SERIOUS ABOUT THE KOTO

WHAT? KURATA, YOU KNOW THIS GUY?

WAIT, KUDOU-KUN.

WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT KOTO?

EH... UH...

OI! DAMN YOU, FOUR-EYES!!!

I'M NOT DONE YET!

SEE YOU BOTH!

IT'S FINE! LET'S GO!

HUH?

NO IT'S NOT. THESE GUYS ARE MAKING FUN OF YOU AND THE KOTO!

NO... I'M USED IT...

ISN'T IT PISSING YOU OFF TO BE SPOKEN TO LIKE THAT?

LET GO!

FLING

YOU'RE USED TO BEING MADE FUN OF?!

H-HEY, CHIKA...

DON'T JUST SMILE AND BEAR IT!

IF THAT'S SO, THEN STAND UP STRAIGHT!

I JUST DON'T WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT...

..I DON'T MIND .. THAT'S NOT IT...

IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN SAY IT PROPERLY—

"BUT WE JUST HAVE TO CATCH UP TO HER."

BESIDES, WEREN'T YOU ACTING ALL STRANGE SINCE EARLIER?

Stand up...

straight...

IT'S NOT SOMETHING KUDOU-KUN WOULD UNDERSTAND.

LET'S GO.

DON'T START FIGHTING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SCHOOL.

OKAY, THAT'S IT.

smack

AH...

Ignores

friedsquid.weebly.com
Currently in dire need of Japanese/Chinese translators and TYPESETTERS to keep English releases of *Kono Oto Tomare!* going.

PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE.

AHH...

YOUR KOUHAI IS WEARING SUCH A SAD EXPRESSION.

HEY, KURATA,

ARE YOU...

SERIOUSLY AIMING FOR NATIONALS?

HAHA!

WHAT'S WITH THAT REPLY?

YOU SMILED AND LET YOUR OLD CLASSMATES MAKE FUN OF YOU.

AND NOW YOU'RE AVOIDING MY GAZE.

WOULD IT BE WRONG...

IF I SAID YES?

AS THE CLUB LEADER, YOU CAN'T DOUBT OR WAVER.

IF YOU CAN'T EVEN BE CONFIDENT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR OWN FEELINGS...

THEN NATIONALS WILL BE COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE.

...WELL,

I DON'T REALLY CARE WHETHER OR NOT YOU GUYS MAKE IT THERE

.....

BANG

TETSUKI, FOOD!!!

I'M STARVING!!!

bang

SHUT UP.

CAN YOU STOP BARGING INTO MY HOUSE LIKE IT'S YOURS?

WELL, THAT SOUNDS BAD.

SHITTY FOUR-EYES!

WHAT HAPPENED?

AH.

shut

JUST SOME CLUB ACTIVITIES.

ANIKI, YOU CAME TO MEIRYO TODAY.

WHAT WAS THE REASON?

"ARE YOU SERIOUSLY AIMING FOR NATIONALS?"

HUH?

IS YOUR CLUB ACTUALLY THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

LAME.

"STAND UP STRAIGHT! DON'T JUST SMILE AND BEAR IT!"

"IF YOU CAN'T EVEN BE CONFIDENT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR OWN FEELINGS...

THEN NATIONALS WILL BE COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE."

shut

SFX: CLENCH

slide

A HEAVY HEART...

WHERE CAN I GET THAT FROM...?

thud

Confidence...

CRITICISM WHICH STRIKES AT THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM...
"AS THE CLUB LEADER, YOU CAN'T DOUBT OR WAVER."
"THEN THE NATIONALS WILL BE COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE."
"IF YOU CAN'T EVEN BE CONFIDENT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR OWN FEELINGS..."

SO... THIS WEEK'S PRACTICE MENU IS ...
...NO. WE WON'T MAKE IT AT THIS RATE...
CD
AMUSHA
練習メニューの組み立て方
SHUEISHA

I'LL REORGANIZE THIS MENU ONE MORE TIME.
THERE'S DEFINITELY MORE I CAN CHANGE
SFX: RUSTLE (2X)
"WE'RE GONNA DO OUR BEST!"
"BUT WE JUST HAVE TO CATCH UP TO HER."

SFX: RUSTLE (2X)
EH.
OH NO, IT'S TIME ALREADY?!
YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE!
TAKEZOU, ARE YOU GOING TO SCHOOL YET?

I have to.
Self-confidence isn't something I can build up in one day.
So right now, I'm going to do everything that I can as the president.

YOU ARE NOW READING A FAN SCANLATED BY FANS!
PLEASE LEND US A HAND IN THE SCANLATION PROCESS!
VISIT FRIEDSQUID.WEEBLY.COM

KONO OTO TOMARE!

#17 ANSWER

...OKAY.
FROM THE TOP ONE MORE TIME.
READY...
WE WEREN'T IN TIME JUST NOW.
LET'S GO A BIT SLOWER.
SFX: TA (BEHIND)
SFX: KA (FRONT)
SFX: TAKA TAKA TAKA

LET'S ...
PRACTICE SEPARATELY FOR A BIT
PISSED
PISSED
IT DIDN'T WORK EVEN THOUGH WE SLOWED DOWN SO MUCH
DAMN.
NO,
I MEAN IT MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF WE EACH LEARNT THE PARTS BETTER BEFORE PLAYING TOGETHER...
HA?
"IT'S NOT SOMETHING KUDOU-KUN WOULD UNDERSTAND."
YOU'RE

KACHAK
H-
HEY, CHIKA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
PRACTICING BY MYSELF
MENTAL PRACTICE.

QUIT CRYING, KOUTA!
U-UM..
UH...

CLACK

AH.
GACHA

UM, SENPAI.
SORRY, I'M STEPPING OUT FOR A BIT.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING...?
I can't stumble here...
SIGH
scratch scratch

SHEESH. I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
S-
SORRY..
EVEN I'M STARTING TO FEEL IT!
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO GLOOMY?
KURUSU-SAN...
EH..

BIG SIS HERE WILL LISTEN TO YOU.
C'MON. IF YOU'VE GOT ANY WORRIES, FEEL FREE TO TELL ME.
..UH?
GRAB

I'M GOING BACK TO THE CLUB ROOM.
COME ON.
.....
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT CONCERNS YOU.
...NOT REALLY.
HEY! ARE YOU IGNORING ME?!
...WHAT THE HELL.
BUT THANKS ANYWAY.

SFX: BANG
I WANT A CHEESE-BURGER!
TETSUKI, FOOD!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T MADE UP WITH YOUR SENPAI YET?
STINGY!
HUH?
TAP TAP
NO.
TODAY IT'S KAT-SUDON.
SFX: WHUMP

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "MADE UP"? WE'RE NOT FIGHTING!
HE'S JUST A DAMN FOUR-EYES.
AH. YES, YES,
I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU TWO THOUGH.
BUT A SENPAI IS A SENPAI.
YOU'RE STILL HIS KOUHAI.
SO?

EVEN IF SENPAI HAS HIS WORRIES,
HE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO BURDEN OR SHOW WEAKNESS TO A KOUHAI.
AND HE'S THE CLUB PRESIDENT ON TOP OF THAT.
DON'T FORGET THAT.

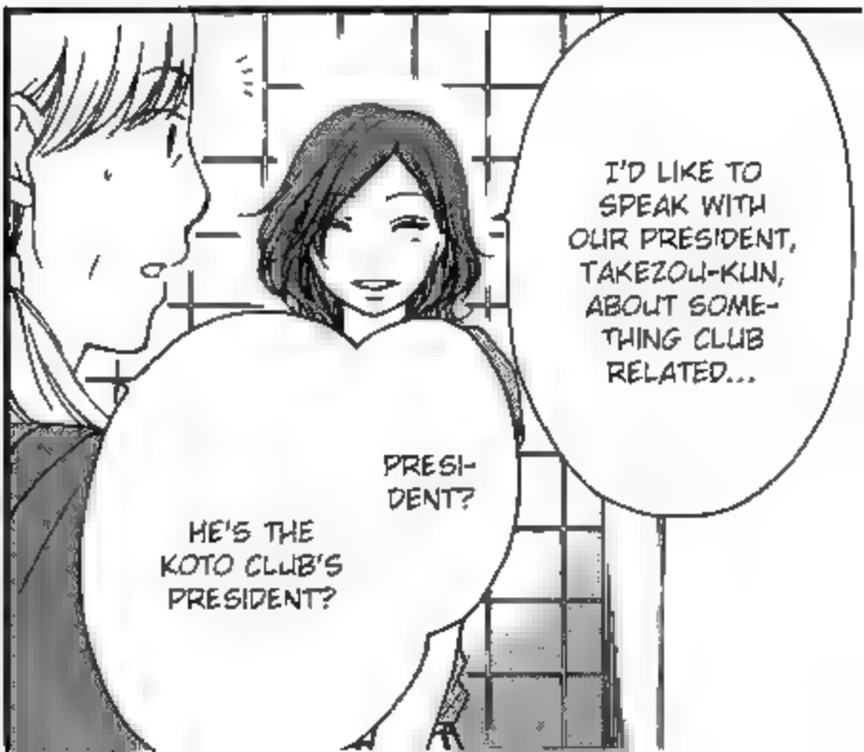
YOU'RE SAYING?
YOU'RE A TEAM BUT YOU'RE ALSO INDIVIDUALS.
EVEN MY BROTHER HAS NEVER CONFIDED TO ME SERIOUSLY.
...WHAT THE HECK.

THAT MEANS
I CAN'T HELP HIM.
"YOU SMILED AND LET YOUR OLD CLASSMATES SAY THAT TO YOU,
"WHAT THE HECK! ARE YOU KIDDING?"
"DON'T JUST SMILE AND BEAR IT."
AND NOW YOU'RE AVOIDING MY GAZE."
NGH...
It's the same with studying.
I have to think about our methods.
It's not just about increasing the amount of practice.
I need to think about how to catch up...

DING-DONG

SFX: OPEN

SFX: BANG



GOOD EVEN.NG, TAKEZOU-KUN.♥
KU-KU-RUSU-SAN ...?
HEH~ TH S IS A NEAT ROOM.
WELL, IT'S JUST LIKE YOU!
WHY DID YOU EVEN COME TO MY HOUSE . .?
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY.♥
NO
UM..
WHAT'S TH S? A DVD OF THE CUL TURAL FESTIVAL?
MHM.
THAT'S A RECORDING OF LAST YEAR'S NATIONAL COMPE-TITION. I WANTED TO LISTEN AND SEE ..
IF THERE ARE ANY TECHNIQUES WORTH STUDYING.

SIGH
WHY THANK YOU.
STILL, ALTHOUGH YOU'RE OUR CLUB PRESIDENT...
WHOA... YOU'RE SO SERIOUS!
YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE BALD IN THE FUTURE!
IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU NEED TO SHOULDER EVERYTHING ALONE.
ACTUALLY,
I WAS SPEAKING WITH SUZUKA-CHAN EARLIER...

I'M GONNA BE THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE KOTO CLUB.
FROM TOMORROW ONWARDS,
IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, YOU CAN CONSULT ME!
THAT WAY I CAN LEND YOU A HAND WITH STUFF.
VICE-PRESI-DENT?!
EH... EH?!
YEP! VICE-PRESIDENT. WE STILL DON'T HAVE ONE, RIGHT?
SINCE WE'RE GOING TO THE MUSIC FESTIVAL SOON, IT'S GONNA GET TOUGH ON YOU IF YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE!
I'M THE ONLY SECOND YEAR IN THE CLUB BESIDES YOU, WHICH MEANS
I CAN HELP WITH YOUR WORKLOAD TOO, OKAY?!

BUT, KURUSU-SAN, YOU'VE ONLY JUST JOINED THE CLUB.
I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER YOU WITH
...
SORRY... FOR BEING SO UNRELIABLE AND CAUSING YOU TO WORRY...
SFX: SMACK
Squeeze
LOOK AT ME PROPER-LY!
THE WHOLE CLUB IS FEELING DEPRESSED, DO YOU UNDER-STAND?!!
EH?...
UH...
MORE BOTHER-SOME RIGHT NOW?!!
TO TELL THE TRUTH, ISN'T YOUR HABIT OF DEALING WITH EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN

I...
EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE WAS SO DIFFER-ENT...
WAS BECAUSE IT LOOKED LIKE EVERYONE GOT ALONG REALLY WELL AS MEMBERS,
THE REASON WHY I JOINED THE KOTO CLUB...
I THINK...
SEEMED SPECIAL SO...
I THOUGHT THAT THE ATMOSPHERE...
IN OTHER WORDS, IT WILL BE EASIER FOR YOU IF YOU TALK TO OTHERS AROUND YOU!
ANYWAY! I'M SAYING THAT YOU SHOULDN'T BURDEN YOURSELF LIKE THIS!
SHUT UP!
WASN'T IT BECAUSE THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE CLUB PISSED YOU OFF OR SOMETHING SO YOU JOINED ..
UH...

I'LL HEAR YOU OUT PROPERLY AS WELL!
YOU LISTENED TO ME, DIDN'T YOU?
"I'LL LISTEN PROPERLY."
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU SAID THAT TO ME...
||
Blush
THAT'S-
THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO SAY!
BYE!
HEY.
WA—

BANG
run run run
KA CHAK
WHAT'S WITH THE RUCKUS...
WHO WAS IT?
AW, WHY WON'T SHE STAY TO CHAT LONGER?
KURUSU-SAN!
OH, I'M MAKING SOME TEA
I'M FINE, THANK YOU! SORRY FOR INTRUDING!
AH, I SEE.
THOSE GUYS YOU CAME WITH TO MEIRYO LOOKED LIKE A BAD LOT.
AH,
A FRIEND FROM TAKEZOU'S KOTO CLUB.
KOTO CLUB?
SFX: GRAB
TAKERO.
HEY, TAKE
YOU SHOULD PICK BETTER FRIENDS TO HANG OUT WITH, ANIKI.

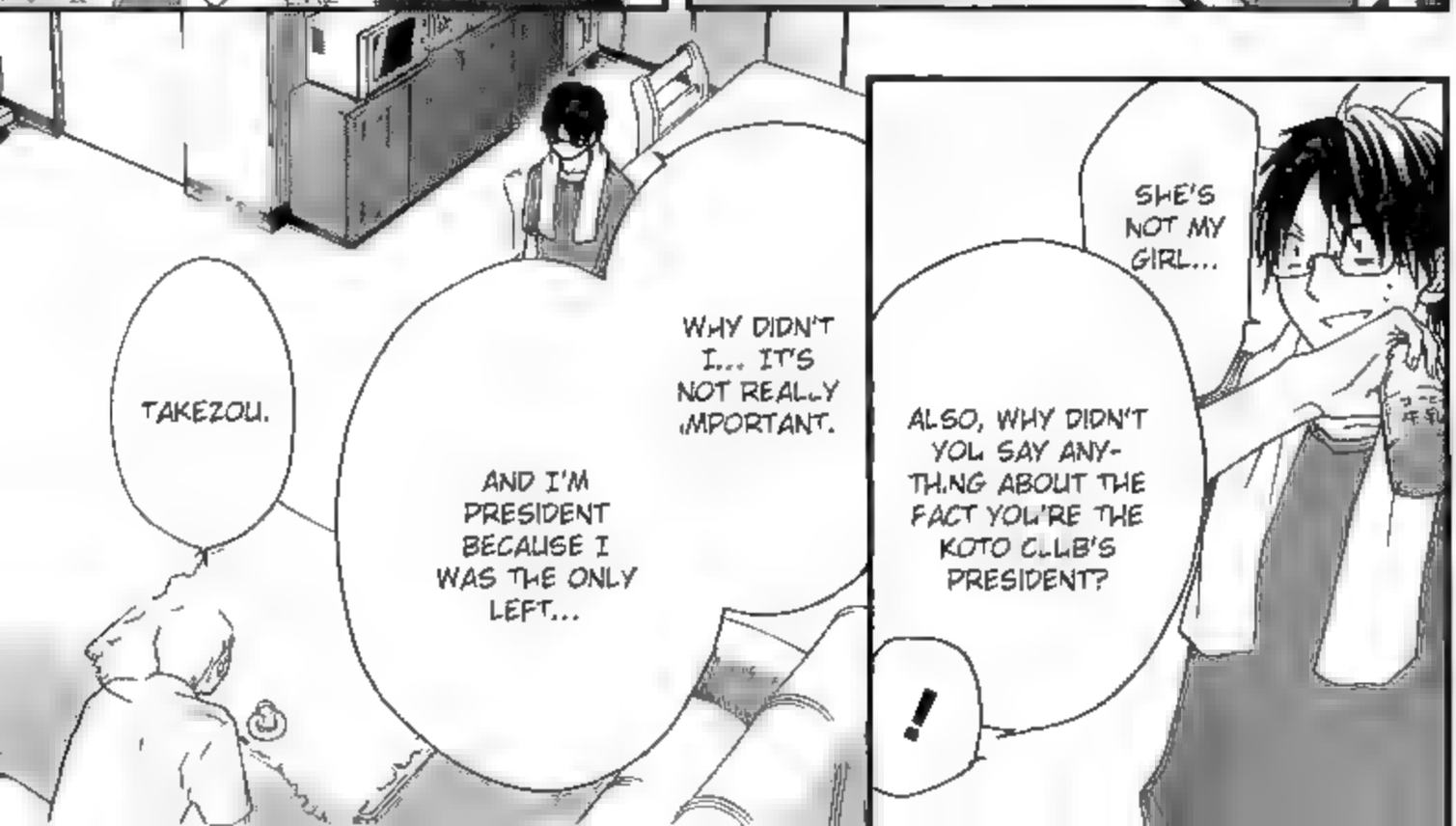
DON'T MOUTH OFF ABOUT PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW.
Lee-
Rear
N

OPEN

SFX: SPURT

I HEARD THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND VISITED US TODAY.
ふっ

TAKEZOU.
CLATTER


TAKEZOU.
AND I'M PRESIDENT BECAUSE I WAS THE ONLY LEFT...
WHY DIDN'T I... IT'S NOT REALLY IMPORTANT.
SHE'S NOT MY GIRL...
ALSO, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANY-TH.NG ABOUT THE FACT YOU'RE THE KOTO CLUB'S PRESIDENT?
!

DON'T DEPRECATE YOURSELF.
THE FACT THAT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN THE CLUB
MEANS YOU'VE WORKED HARD TO PROTECT ITS EXISTENCE.
YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB.
HEHE MOTHER . .
WAS ACTUALLY VERY HAPPY THAT YOU GOT SO ANGRY
AT WHAT TAKERO SAID ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS!

WHEN TAKERO SPOKE TO YOU LIKE THAT,
YOU NEVER GOT ANGRY.
BUT YOU GOT ANGRY FOR YOUR FRIENDS' SAKE.
YOU'VE
MADE SOME WONDERFUL FRIENDS NOW.

I SEE...
AH...
HE'S DOING "MENTAL PRACTICE" ON HIS OWN IN THE CLASS-ROOM.
OH?
WHERE'S KUDOU-KUN?
...
SORRY, TAKEZOU-SENPAI.
WE'RE NOT REALLY SURE WHAT TO DO IN THIS SITUATION,
AND I DON'T THINK CHIKA DOES EITHER..
EVEN NOW, CHIKA
DOESN'T GET INVOLVED WITH MANY PEOPLE,
AND WHEN HE DOES, IT'S USUALLY IN AN ARGU-MENT...
OR A FIGHT WHERE THEY BEAT EACH OTHER UP. BUT THAT'S IT.
SO...

"WEREN'T YOU ACTING ALL STRANGE SINCE EARLIER?"

WORRYING ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON... TRYING TO UNDERSTAND ANOTHER PERSON...

THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME CHIKA HAS EVER EXPERIENCED THIS.

"IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN SAY IT PROPERLY-"

"ISN'T IT PISSING YOU OFF TO BE SPOKEN TO LIKE THAT?"

GETTING ANGRY FOR THE SAKE OF SOMEONE ELSE...

"YOU'RE USED TO BEING MADE FUN OF?!"

RIGHT NOW,

HE'S PROBABLY FEELING FRUSTRATED AT HIS INABILITY TO HELP YOU.

(WHISPERS: FRIED SQUID SCANS NEEDS JAPANESE TRANSLATORS, CHINESE TRANSLATORS, TYPESETTERS, CLEANERS & REDRAWERS)

"IT'S NOT SOMETHING KUDOU-KUN WOULD UNDERSTAND."
"LOOK AT ME PROPERLY!"
AH...
SORRY, I'LL BE BACK IN BIT...
START PRACTICING FIRST!
EH-

I'm such a fool.
I was so focused on my own issues...
that I became blind to those around me.
I'm not the only person who's fighting an uphill battle.
KUDOU-KUN!

UM..
I'M PRACTIC-ING.
DON'T TALK TO ME.
...MEIRYO
WAS ACTUALLY THE HIGH SCHOOL THAT I FAILED TO GET INTO.
ALSO, THIS WILL SOUND SELFISH, BUT I DIDN'T ACTUALLY WANT TO GO TO THE JOINT PRACTICE.
I'M SORRY ABOUT LAST TIME.

AND I SAID SOME SPITEFUL THINGS TO YOU.
AND BECAME TOO FOCUSED ON OUR DIFFERENCES.
I WAS REALLY SHAKEN BY HIMESAKA'S PERFOR-MANCE
AND EVEN WENT ALONG WITH IT.
BUT I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING
SORRY.
I'VE... UTTERLY FAILED AS THE CLUB PRESIDENT.
SO WHEN YOU CAME OUT AND SAID THOSE THINGS IN FRONT OF EVERYONE, I FELT PATHETIC.
I'M NOT CONFIDENT ABOUT MYSELF,
IT'S NOT AS IF I'M CONFIDENT ABOUT MYSELF EITHER.
BUT I FELT THAT I HAD TO TELL YOU.
I KNOW IT'S AWKWARD FOR YOU TO HEAR ME SAY ALL THAT,

GRAMPS...
"I UNDER-STAND YOU!"
BELIEVED IN ME.
EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T BELIEVE IN MYSELF...
YET...
AND YOU'VE ACKNOWL-EDGED ME.
THAT TIME WHEN I WAS SUSPECTED OF DESTROYING THE CLUB ROOM,
YOU CAME AND SAVED ME, REMEMBER?
...HUH?

"KUDOU-KUN IS A NEW MEMBER OF THE KOTO CLUB!"
YOU ACKNOWLEDGED SOMEONE LIKE ME
AS A MEMBER OF THE CLUB.
!
WHAT I'M SAYING IS...
...THAT I'M HERE BECAUSE OF YOU.

DON'T GET CONFUSED OVER SOME ABSTRACT CRAP LIKE SELF-CONFIDENCE!
WHAT-EVER.
YOU'RE OUR CLUB PRESIDENT, AND EVERYONE AGREES ON THAT!
SHUT UP!
EH...W-WHY?!
LIKE HELL I'M GONNA SAY IT!
"IT LOOKED LIKE EVERYONE GOT ALONG REALLY WELL AS MEMBERS,
EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE WAS SO DIFFERENT..."
"IN OTHER WORDS, IT WILL BE EASIER FOR YOU IF YOU TALK TO OTHERS AROUND YOU!"
Chuckle
SINCE WE CAN'T SEE IT, IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH IF I SAY IT'S THERE!

already have
something more important than self-confidence.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

AH! THEY CAME BACK TOGETHER.
RIGHT? EXACTLY LIKE I SAID♥
EVERY-ONE
HAH? WE WEREN'T EVEN FIGHTING.
YAY! GOOD TO SEE YOU'VE BOTH MADE UP♥
I UNDER-STAND, I UNDER-STAND.
BECAUSE IT GOT SO AWKWARD BE-TWEEN BOTH OF YOU, WE'RE BEHIND ON OUR PRACTICE!
SATOWA-CHAN, OVER TO YOU.
WE'RE HAVING MORNING PRACTICES STARTING FROM TOMORROW. LET'S WORK HARD.
EH?
S-SERIOUSLY, SATOWA-SAN...?
YEP, I'M SERIOUS.
WOW! IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE OUR LAST MORNING PRACTICE.
WHAT TIME ARE WE STARTING?

To be honest...
Goal
The Nationals!
Ah...

GUYS,
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T THINK MAKING IT TO THE NATIONALS IS POSSIBLE FOR US.

EH...?
HIMESAKA IS KANAGAWA'S BEST,
AND THEY'VE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY'RE FAR ABOVE US AS A KOTO CLUB.
THE IDEA OF OUTPERFORMING THEM
JUST ISN'T REALISTIC.
WE'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH RIGHT NOW.
木艮

EVEN IF WE PUT IN THE SAME EFFORT AS HIMESAKA,
THAT DIFFERENCE WON'T CHANGE.
DON'T EXPECT A MIRACLE TO HAPPEN.
EVEN IF WE PRACTICED TEN TIMES AS HARD, THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT WE'LL BECOME BETTER THAN THEM.
HOWEVER HARD WE WORK, THE ODDS WILL STILL BE AGAINST US.
MAKING THE NATIONALS ISN'T EASY.

BUT...

BUT EVEN SO,
I WANT TO AIM FOR THE NATIONALS WITH EVERYONE HERE AS A WHOLE.

OKAY
EVERYONE WRITE ONE WORD EACH.
FWAP
THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH.
TWO WORDS?
FINE, TWO WORDS PER PERSON THEN.
SFX: POP
Hey, you.
Don't copy what I say.
HERE YOU GO♥
YOU SHOULD WRITE FIRST, TAKEZOU-SENPA.

SQUEAK
Don't deceive yourself and others.
Don't avoid their gaze.
A FIGHT WITH A CLEAR WINNER
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
IS NO FUN AT ALL.
HERE.
FIGHTING ON YOUR OWN IS TOUGH,
BUT WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.

HERE.
IT'S HARD TO DO SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT,
BUT I'M GONNA GIVE IT MY ALL!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
HERE YOU GO, HIRO-SENPAI ♥
THANK YOU.
AH, RIGHT!
I FORGOT TO MENTION THIS EARLIER BUT FROM TODAY ON, I'M THE VICE-PRESIDENT.
Please get along with me
EH?!
IF YOU'VE GOT ANY PROBLEMS, YOU CAN SPEAK WITH HIRO-SENPAI,
MY CUTE KOUHAIS.
HIRO-SENPAI IS AMAZING.
HERE YOU GO, SATOWA-CHAN.
WHAT TWO WORDS ARE YOU GONNA WRITE? EXCLAMATION MARKS?
UH...

I WON'T MAKE IT ON MY OWN,
UNLESS WE DO THIS TOGETHER ...
MY GOAL IS MORE LIKE THIS.
AM I RIGHT?
IT'S MORE INTERESTING IF WE MAKE OUR GOAL MORE OF A CHALLENGE!

"THE BIGGER OUR GOAL, THE FASTER WE'LL IMPROVE!"
WOOHOO! IT'S DONE!

SHALL I PUT IT UP HERE?
AH, MORE TO THE RIGHT!
AIM TO BE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!
OUR DREAM IS TO WORK TOWARDS OUR GOAL!

バーン!!
誕生メシ!!
ミートドリア!!

やと仲直りしたのか…
これでようやく落ち着いて漫画読めと

THEY AIM FOR AN IMPOSSIBLE GOAL.

SAKAMOTO TAKA
Kurata Takezou Adachi Sawaguchi
AIM TO BE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!
Kudou Chika!

WITH RENEWED DETERMINATION—

THE COMPETITION PRACTICE BEGINS THE VERY NEXT DAY.

WHERE DO YOU THINK WE WOULD BE?

Himesaka 3

Tap

IF, FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING, HIMESAKA'S POSITION IS HERE,

WHERE...?

SPIN

SPIN

PROBA-BLY...

AROUND HERE. = =

To scale 100 paces behind them.

EH, ISN'T THAT A BIT TOO FAR BEHIND?

NO. AROUND HERE.

WE'RE AT A LEVEL WHERE WE CAN'T EVEN COMPREHEND OUR OWN LEVEL.

BULLSHIT, QUIT SCREWING US OVER.

MURDEROUS INTENT

AS IF I WOULD!

WE HAVE TO ACCEPT REALITY FIRST!

WE MANAGED TO PLAY RYUUSEIGUN, BECAUSE THAT PIECE WAS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO COVER TECHNICAL MISTAKES.

TRUE, HAVING HOUTSUKI-SAN MAKES US MUCH STRONGER.

AND WE HAVE HOUTSUKI-SAN...

I THOUGHT WE WERE PRETTY GOOD 'CAUSE WE PERFORMED RYUUSEIGUN...

SO OUR ABILITIES ARE THAT FAR BEHIND, HUH...

BUT THAT WON'T HOLD UP AT THE NATIONALS.

"IN TIME", "PLAYING AS ONE".

THESE ARE TWO KEY THINGS THAT ANY COMPETING TEAM SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO. YET, WE STILL CAN'T,

WHICH MEANS...

COULD THIS GUY BE A NATURAL BORN SADIST...?

T-TAKE-ZOU-SENPAI.

YOUR WORDS ARE TOO SHARP...

AH, sorry.

I had no idea our abilities were that bad

THAT'S OUR REALITY...

WE HAVEN'T IMPROVED AT ALL.

STAB!

TRY NOT TO SLOW DOWN FOR US ON PURPOSE!

HEY, HOUT-SUKI.

HUH?

O...

OKAY.

ANYWAY!

LET'S EVALUATE OUR OWN CURRENT ABILITIES AND THEN SET CLEAR GOALS!

...

PEOPLE KEEP TALKING ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE REST OF US.

BUT YOU'D BETTER NOT SLOW DOWN TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR US!

MAKE SURE TO PUT IN YOUR 100%, OKAY?

I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY!

WHY SHOULD I TAKE IT EASY ANYWAY?

OF COURSE I'M GOING TO TRY MY HARDEST.

IN FACT, I'M GOING TO IMPROVE EVEN MORE THAN BEFORE.

DON'T START CRYING WHEN YOU CAN'T CATCH UP.

THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

THEY'VE SUDDENLY BECOME RIVALS!

I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY.

JUST YOU WAIT, I'LL INSTANTLY K.O. YOU BEFORE YOU CAN EVEN BLINK.

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU SAY?

As long as it helps to improve their skills

CRICKLE

CRICKLE

KONO OTO TOMARE!

#18 STEPS

JUMP COMICS VOL 1-4
NOW ON SALE!

MEIRYO ACADEMY

TAKE-YAN~ WHADDYA SPACING OUT FOR??

.....

"Don't mouth off about people you don't know."

SHINE

EHHH- WHY NOT?

IT'S CUTE~

♪

KIRI-YUU...

I TOLD YOU NOT TO CALL ME BY THAT NICKNAME.

GEH?

Kya ♡

Gloom

ARE YOU JOINING?!

EHH, WHY? TAKE-YAN, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE INTERESTED IN KOTO?!

WHY DO ALL THE GUYS AROUND ME PLAY KOTO?

YEP, YEP. WE'RE PRACTICING TODAY.

THAT... DON'T TELL ME, IT'S A KOTO?

CHE.

IT'S FUN, YOU KNOW. THERE ARE LOADS OF CHICKS TOO~

KILLING INTENT

HELL NO.

WAH...

Your glare is too cold

"Takero,

Why have you been deliberately picking fights with your brother recently?"

"Why has it become like this...?"

"Why..."

"It used to be 'oniichan, oniichan' all the time, and you'd follow him everywhere."

"Nothing, really. I just start feeling irritated."

"Uh... um."

"I got accepted into Meiryo."

"Aniki."

"Really? That's amazing!

Congratulations."

He swallowed his emotions completely and forced those praising words out with a smile on his face.

But I would have been actually glad if he had shown at least a shred of pain or anger.

"Don't mouth off about people you don't know."

HM?

IT WAS ANIKI WHO LET GO FIRST.

NO-THING.

Mutter

KIRIYUU.

DO YOU KNOW...

TOKISE HIGH'S KOTO CLUB?

TOKI-SE...?

AH, THE GROUP THAT CAME HALFWAY THROUGH THE MUSIC EXCHANGE SESSION~

WERE THEY GOOD?

I DIDN'T HEAR THEM PLAY SO I HAVE NO IDEA.

....

Teehee ♡

BUT,

I'D BE INTERESTED TO HEAR HOW THOSE GUYS PLAY~

THEY MAKE AN ODD GROUP

BUT THEY ALL SEEMED REALLY TIGHT KNIT.

THE CLUB PRESIDENT PROBABLY PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT TO SYNC THEM TOGETHER.

...I SEE.

....

MAYBE YOU'RE BROTHERS?

WHAT IS IT?

ARE YOU GUYS RELATED OR SOMETHING?

OH YEAH,

TOKISE'S CLUB PRESIDENT IS ALSO A KURATA.

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

HEY, OU-SUKE!!

La~la~

DON'T GET SO ANGRY NOW. IT'LL RUIN YOUR CUTE FACE, LADY♥

Chuuu

WHERE DID YOU GO TO PICK UP YOUR KOTO?!

YOU MEAN SORRY WE HAD TO WAIT!

THANK YOU FOR WAITING ~~~♥

KOU-CHAN.

OU-SUKE. HERE.

HURRY UP AND GET PRACTICING.

PAH

YOSHIKI-SENSEI SAID THAT HIMESAKA WOULD BE PARTICI-PATING.

AHH... BUT THAT'S PRETTY SELFISH DECISION MAKING...

ALSO, IT SEEMS THAT TOKISE WILL BE THERE TOO.

WHAT'S THIS?

KANTO MUSIC FESTIVAL ...?

EH? WHY SO SUD-DENLY...?

WE'RE ENTERING THIS.

Kyaa~~

I can't wait~!

SHUT UP.

IS THIS WHAT YOU CALL DESTINY?

UWAAAHHH, AMAZING!!! I WAS SPEAKING TO TAKE-YAN ABOUT THIS JUST NOW.

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE QUITE EXCITED ABOUT THIS.

You're too hyped.

SERIOUS-LY?!!

HEY...DID YOU HEAR THAT JUST NOW?

YEAH...

shuffle shuffle

.....

Woohoo

TSUTSUMIN SPOKE TO ME FOR THE FIRST TIME!!

YES!!!

He's always ignoring me.

OUSUKE, YOU'RE DISGUSTING.

HEY, OUSUKE!!

HEY!! HURRY UP AND START PRACTICING!!

OKAY, ONE MORE TIME.

READY...

TAA

TAKA

TAKA

TAKA

KUDOU-KUN, IT'S YOU WHO SHOULD BE TRYING TO PLAY IN TIME!

HEY, FOUR-EYES! QUIT HIDING BEHIND MY NOTES, OKAY?!

GEH.

Screwed up again!

SIGH...

WE STILL CAN'T GET IT RIGHT AFTER SO MANY TRIES...

THUMP

HUH?!

THE HELL—

THANKS, HOUTSUKI-SAN.

M-METRO...? WHAT IS THIS?

THIS IS A METRO-NOME.

START USING THIS FROM NOW ON.

UWA!!

kacha Kacha

Hm.

THIS WILL HELP YOU GET A HANG OF THE RHYTHM BY SETTING THE TEMPO.

kachi kachi kachi

AMA-ZING!! SO COOL!! The top secret weapon.

IS SOME-THING BOTHERING YOU?

AH, NO,

JUST THAT NOW EVERYONE HAS LEARNT THE BASICS, THEY CAN PRACTICE ON THEIR OWN.

CONCENTRATING

SHICAN
SHICHAN
SHICHAN

I THINK I'M STARTING TO GET IT NOW!

PHEW.

TA RA RA RAN

QUARTER NOTES?

?
?

I RECOMMEND THAT YOU PAY ATTENTION TO NOTE LENGTHS.

YOU'VE BEEN DOING THINGS LIKE PLAYING 16TH NOTES AS QUARTER-NOTES.

APART FROM YOUR TECHNIQUES, YOU ALSO NEED TO WORK ON YOUR SENSE OF RHYTHM.

MIZUHARA-KUN.

THE RHYTHM OF THESE TWO NOTES IS DIFFERENT, UNDERSTAND?

AH! I SEE, I SEE!

THIS IS A 16TH NOTE.

THE NEXT SECTION CHANGES INTO A QUARTER NOTE.

MIZU-HARA-KUN.

IT'S THIS.

WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?

WELL... SOME-THING... LIKE THAT?

...HUH?

AND HERE, THE NOTES ARE LINED HORIZONTALLY SO I PLAY SLOWLY, IS THAT RIGHT?

Notes aligned horizontally are played as chords

HERE, THE NOTES ARE ALIGNED VERTICALLY SO I NEED TO PLAY FASTER.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND RHYTHM EITHER.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

? ?

IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS PLAYING FASTER OR SLOWER.

YOU NEED TO PLAY ACCORDING TO THE TEMPO.

AH.

THAT'S TRUE, MIZUHARA-KUN IS WEAK WHEN IT COMES TO RHYTHM...

IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN PUT IT IN SIMPLE TERMS?

KIND OF... SOMEHOW...

SANE AND HIRO-SENPAI, DO YOU GUYS GET IT?

BUT I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.

AH! IT LOOKS LIKE A KOTO SCORE.

THIS IS A ROAD DIVIDED INTO FOUR SECTIONS.

1 section

Road

RUSTLE

HOW ABOUT IF I EXPLAIN IT LIKE THIS?

THAT'S THE BASIC TEMPO.

HE CAN CROSS 1 SECTION IN 1 STRIDE. HE TAKES 4 STRIDES TO CROSS THE ROAD.

DAD?

THE QUARTER NOTE IS THE DAD.

quarter note

stride

stride

stride

Tan

Tan

Tan

Tan

THE 8TH NOTE IS THE MOM.

HER STRIDES ARE NARRO-WER THAN DAD'S.

IF SHE WALKS ALONG-SIDE DAD,

SHE NEEDS TO TAKE 2 STRIDES TO KEEP UP WITH HIS 1 STRIDE.

8th Note

Ta Ta Ta Ta Ta Ta Ta Ta

A CHILD IS THE 16TH NOTE.

THE CHILD'S STRIDE IS NARROWER THAN EVER.

WHEN DAD TAKES 1 STRIDE, THE CHILD HAS TAKE 4 STRIDES IN ORDER TO STAY NEXT TO HIM.

Tata Tata Tata Tata Tata Tata Tata Tata

SO THE 16TH NOTE ISN'T JUST SIMPLY FASTER.

THE CHILD HAS TO TAKE 4 STRIDES IN ORDER TO STAY IN TIME WITH THE DAD'S 1 STRIDE.

IF THE CHILD IS TOO SLOW OR FAST, THEY CAN'T WALK TOGETHER.

YOU'RE SO BRAVE!!!

16TH NOTE...!!!

AH...I THINK I JUST MADE IT MORE CONFUSING...

SILENCE...

FUAAAH

HE SHOULD WAIT FOR HIM!!

HIS KID IS CHASING SO DESPERATELY AFTER HIM.

hahahaha Father~

Quarter Note

16th note

HE'S TOO SELFISH!!

AND THE QUARTER NOTE DAD IS JUST TOO HORRIBLE!

LET'S GET PRACTICING.

WHAT THE HELL.

...

Uaahh~

You have to beat your dad!!

Pass him!!

GIVE IT YOUR BEST!

Y... YEAH!

FOR THE SAKE OF KEEPING THE FAMILY TOGETHER!!

I'LL DO MY BEST, TAKEZOU-SENPAI!!

LET'S STOP PRACTICING POINTLESSLY.

IT'S NOT ABOUT PLAYING THE PIECE OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

I THINK IT'S BETTER IF WE FOCUS ON THE SECTIONS WE CAN'T PLAY.

WHEN YOU'VE MASTERED THE PARTS YOU CAN'T PLAY,

START PLAYING FROM A FEW MEASURES EARLIER.

ONCE YOU'VE MASTERED THAT, THEN PLAY FROM THE START.

Thank you for taking care of us again!

TEAR

chirp chirp

chirp chirp

SO HOT...

He's not a morning person either

AH, CHIKA CAN'T STAND HOT OR COLD WEATHER.

UWAAH. THAT'S SO ANNOYING.

SHUT UP.

FWOOOSH

There's no wind on this side!!

CHIKA-KUN. I KNOW IT'S REALLY HOT, BUT...

THE REAL SUMMER'S FOR REAL NOW.

OI, CHIKA, STOP BAGGING THE FAN!

HOUTSUKI-SAN, I THINK WE CAN START PRACTICING THE DUETS AND START TO PLAY TOGETHER.

THAT'S TRUE.

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT ...?

I WANNA PAPICO* ...

HEY! QUIT LYING THERE AND GET PRACTICING!

*T/N. BRAND OF JAPANESE ICE LOLLY

I'LL BE RELYING ON YOU, MITTSU.

OKAY.

ADACHI-KUN AND SAKAI-KUN, PLEASE PRACTICE THE SECOND HARMONY TOGETHER.

THEN...

MIZUHARA-KUN

AND KURUSU-SAN, PLEASE PRACTICE THE THIRD HARMONY TOGETHER.

Fwm

Fwm

ehehe

HIRO-SENPAI, PLEASE LOOK AFTER ME!!!

♡

HAI, HAI, LET'S WORK HARD TOGETHER.

You're pretty lively!

HIRO-SENPAI, CAN YOU PLAY IT YET?

NO WAY.

SAME.

WE STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN A HANG OF OUR OWN PARTS, AND WE'RE ALREADY GOING TO PLAY TOGETHER?

KUDOU-KUN, LET'S PRACTICE OVER HERE.

YEAH, OTHERWISE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY IN TIME WITH EVERY-BODY ELSE.

KOUTA...

HE'S CUTE AND EASY TO GET ALONG WITH

BUT I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT GOES ON IN HIS HEAD...

Not that it's important or anything.

HMM.

MAYBE HOUTSUKI-SAN'S HANDLING A BIT TOO MUCH...

IF ONLY SOMEBODY ELSE WOULD HELP US OVERSEE THE WHOLE GROUP...

WHEN I'M DONE PRACTICING MY PARTS, I'LL GO AROUND AND INSTRUCT THE OTHERS.

!

THANK YOU! THAT'D HELP A LOT.

...

OI, FOUR-EYES, LET'S GO!

AH.

DAMN, IT'S HOT.

Chirp

Chirp

You... You've got to be kidding...

chirp

chirp

GLOOM

MESSY

MESSY

TSAH TSAH TSAW

CHA CHA CHAN

MESSY

Actually, he's completely messed up my rhythm too so I can't even correct him...

And he hasn't even noticed that we've been out of time right from the beginning?!

KOUTA

HAS NO SENSE OF RHYTHM AT ALL!!!

An immediate look of despair...

Ah...

....

HOUTSUKI-CHAN, HELP...!!

Mizuhara-kun...

was able to play *Ryuuseigun* because the rhythm was fairly easy.

But...

FOR NOW, PLAY ONE MORE TIME FROM THE TOP.

Are you kidding...

...AH, DOESN'T MY KOTO SOUND WORSE THAN YOURS FOR SOME REASON?

EH? REALLY?

Pluck

Pluck

TAKEZOU-SENPAI, CAN YOU COME OVER FOR A SEC?

POING POING

IT SOUNDS FINE WHEN SENPAI PLAYS...

I SEE.

BUT MAYBE THE HUMIDITY'S AFFECTING YOUR STRINGS.

IT SEEMS FINE.

SHOCK

IT MIGHT BE SAKAI-KUN'S PLUCKS BEING TOO WEAK...

IT'S PROBABLY NOT THE KOTO.

.....

POIN

AHH.
I MEAN THAT YOUR STRENGTH ISN'T TRANSFERRING TO YOUR FINGERS...
EVEN THOUGH I'M BUILT LIKE THIS...?
EVEN... THOUGH I LOOK LIKE THIS?
MY... P-PLUCKS ARE TOO WEAK?
DOES THAT MEAN I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH?

chirp

chirp

AHHH, PAPICO TASTES SO GOOD!

MY SHARISHARI-KUN'S MELTING...

IT'S ALMOST 8 O'CLOCK SO WE NEED TO CLEAR UP.

WE'RE GOING TO THE IN-STRUMENT STORE NEXT!

GOT IT!

YOU HAVEN'T HAD ONE BEFORE?

STARE

SO THAT'S A PAPICO ...

HERE.

PACHI

EH.

WHAT?

TRY IT. IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, I'LL FINISH IT FOR YOU.

F... FINISH IT FOR...

.....

SUCK

THERE'S A LOT I CAN'T PLAY IN "KU-ON"...

ME TOO.

ISN'T HOOKING THE STRINGS REALLY DIFFICULT?

AND ALSO HOLDING THE STRINGS TOO.

CAN'T WE FIT IN MORE PRACTICE?

EVEN THOUGH I'M PRACTICING AT SCHOOL AND AT GRANNY'S SHOP,

IT FEELS LIKE EVERY TIME I'M ABOUT TO GET A BREAK THROUGH, IT'S TIME TO PACK UP.

AND THEN THE NEXT DAY, I HAVE TO TRY AND FIGURE IT ALL OUT AGAIN.

SHOULD WE HOLD A TRAINING CAMP?

OH YEAH, IT'S NEARLY SUMMER VACATION.

SOUNDS FUN!!

OH WAIT.

UWAAH! CAMP! I'M IN! I'M IN!!

Camp.

WHAT?

HOW MUCH WOULD THAT COST?

....

UH... THAT DEPENDS WHERE WE HOLD THE CAMP.

WE'VE USED UP MOST OF OUR CLUB FUNDS.

IF WE HOLD A CAMP, WE'LL BE PAYING OUT OF OUR OWN POCKETS.

I'M BROKE!

THEN HOW ABOUT AT SCHOOL?

SCHOOL...

TRUE. MAKES SENSE.

WAIT, WAIT!!

IT WON'T BE EXCITING IF WE HOLD IT AT SCHOOL!

Not to mention there aren't any baths!

REA-LLY?!

AH, BUT IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD TO TROUBLE HIM DURING THE BUSY HOLIDAY SEASON...

IT'S FINE. MY UNCLE HAS A LOT OF PROPERTIES.

THAT'S TRUE TOO...

ONE OF MY UNCLES RUNS AN INN.

I'LL ASK AND SEE IF WE CAN GET IT FOR REALLY CHEAP!

HAHA, HIRO-NEESAN!

ARE YOU A GOD-DESS?!

I'LL SEE IF I CAN SORT SOMETHING OUT ABOUT THE FOOD AS WELL!

IF WE BORROW THE INN'S COACH, WE CAN ALSO TRANSPORT THE INSTRU-MENTS

WAIT,

YOU DON'T NEED TO DO THAT MUCH FOR US

WE SHOULD USE WHATEVER CONNECTIONS WE HAVE!

DON'T BE SO SHY!

BUT IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT BY ANY CHANCE, SORRY!!

BLUNT

NO, IT'S FINE.

THANKS!

ALL WE NEED IS PERMISSION FROM THE SCHOOL.

I've never been good at dealing with Sensei.

It always feels as though he can see straight through me.

IT'LL BE FINE. YEAH.

And...

He never says what he really thinks.

But

AIM TO BE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!

It's fine.

SO AS I'VE SAID,

WE'D LIKE PERMISSION TO HOLD A TRAINING CAMP.

DIDN'T I SAY THAT I DIDN'T WANT ANY TROUBLE FROM YOU GUYS?

CAMP!

DO ME A FAVOUR AND STOP GIVING ME MORE WORK.

....

PERMISSION TO HOLDING A TRAINING CAMP...

I HAVEN'T EVEN ANSWERED YOU YET.

AREN'T YOU INTERESTED, SENSEI?

THEN...

I SEE.

PLEASE RESIGN AS OUR CLUB ADVISOR.

IT WOULD BE BETTER IF A TEACHER WHO IS INTERESTED ACTED AS OUR CLUB ADVISOR INSTEAD.

SO A TEACHER WHO ISN'T INTERESTED IN WHAT WE'RE DOING WOULD BE PROBLE-MATIC.

WE'RE SERIOUS ABOUT PLAYING AT THE NATIONALS,

WAIT...

WAIT! TA — OI!

THEN I'LL PERSONALLY SPEAK DIRECTLY WITH EITHER THE PRINCIPAL OR THE VICE PRINCIPAL...

IF THAT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE AS WELL,

PFT.

Jump!

BWA HA HA HA HA HA!!!

HEHE...

AHAHAH, I NEVER EXPECTED TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU.

Cracking up...

...

AHA HAHA.

WHAT THE HECK.

YOU WANT TO FIRE YOUR CLUB ADVISOR?

EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE

I KNOW, I KNOW!

SURE, CAMPING IS FINE! GO AHEAD!

EH?

WELL, IT'LL BE EVEN MORE TROUBLE FOR ME FROM THE HIGHER-UPS

IF I GET FIRED AS YOUR ADVISOR.

BESIDES,

Amusing...

PAT

PAT

SO, PLEASE DON'T FIRE ME.

YOU GUYS ARE AMUSING!

...

(Very) interesting

He's completely unfathomable.

What's wrong with him.

CAMP-ING!!

SWEET!!

WE GOT THE OKAY FROM MY UNCLE!

And so,

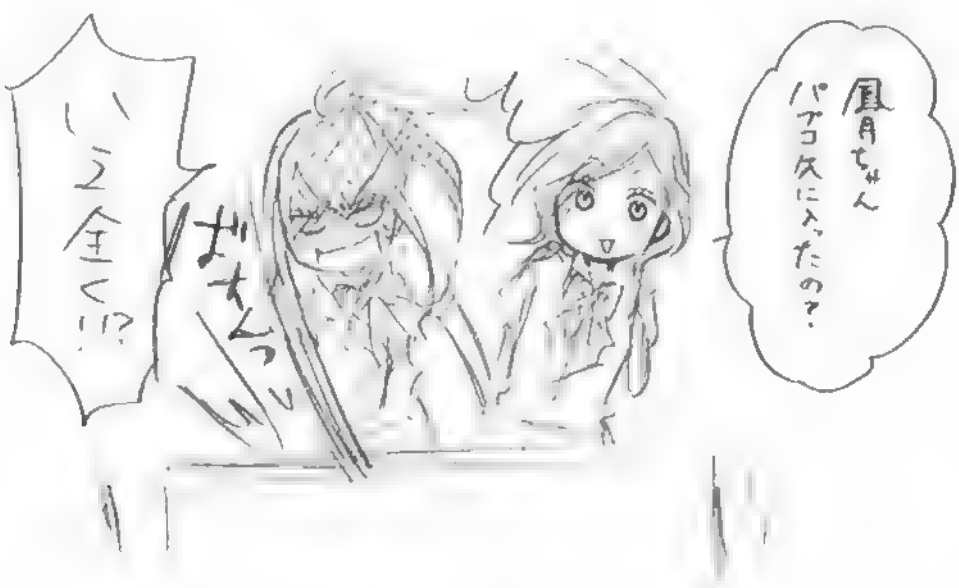
THE SWELTERING SUMMER BEGINS.

chirp

chirp

SUMMER IS HERE!

コンビニ


凪月ちゃん
バテコに入ったの？
ぎゃっ
いえ全く！？

CHIKA

CHIKA

SLEEPING IN ON A CLUB PRACTICE DAY

SFX: KICK

YOUR ALARM CLOCK IS TOO DAMN LOUD

SHUT YOU BITCH

WAKE THE FUCK UP, YOU BUM!!

SMELLS

DOESN'T PRACTICE CAMP START TODAY FOR YOU?

PU.

THUD

.....

NAH, I GOT NOTHING TO REALLY PACK ANYWAY.

DID YOU PACK EVERYTHING?

HUH?

AH.

I NEVER REALLY EXPECTED THIS DAY TO COME... WITH YOU COMMITTING TO CLUB PRACTICE...

BACK THEN WHEN I FIRST MET YOU,

I REALLY HAD NO IDEA WHAT WOULD BECOME OF YOU.

IT'S GREAT

THAT YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR YOUTH NOW.

……

NOTHIN'.

ISAKI, ARE YOU WORKING ON AUGUST 17TH?

WHAT IS IT?

HM? NOT SURE YET.

OH YEAH...

AREN'T YOU GUYS COMPETING ON THAT DAY?

!

Geh

YOU WERE THINKING OF INVI-TING ME, WEREN'T YOU?

EVEN YOU HAVE A CUTE SIDE TOO~

HELL, LIKE I'D EVER SAY IT!!

OKAY, OKAY, I'M DEFINITELY MAKING TIME TO ATTEND THAT DAY.

I NEVER MEANT TO INVITE YOU!!

CAMP PRACTICING
24/7
TOGETHER!
KONO OTO TOMARE!
#19 OBSCURE DISTANCES

AH.

VROOOM

MORNIN'

CHIKA!

HEY, DIDJA GET A HAIRCUT?

YEAH... ISAKI DID IT.

ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU BRINGING TOO LITTLE?

Summer is hot as hell Cut it"

GLOOM

KOUTA, ARE YOU OKAY?

AH...

神奈川県立時瀬高

TOKISE HIGH SCHOOL

Hey

IS EVERYONE ALL SET?

SO HE'S REALLY DEPRESSED RIGHT NOW...

HOUTSUKI-SAN AND HIRO-SENPAI ARE ALWAYS CORRECTING HIM.

EVERYONE'S MAKING PROGRESS AND PLAYING IN TIME, BUT KOUTA'S STILL A BIT TOO SLOW.

IT'S BECAUSE OF RECENT PRACTICES.

HEY, UNCLE!

WE'RE AH, THE ONES BEING TAKEN CARE OF.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO TAKE GOOD OF HER FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS.

Thanks for your kindness

I'M SO SORRY! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

!

THANKS FOR LOOKING AFTER MY NIECE.

I'M HIRO'S UNCLE. NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.

Aaaha.

IT'S FINE.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME. I ACTUALLY HAVE A LOT OF STRENGTH.

Here, let me have it

THE GUYS SHOULD BE DOING IT...

SORRY.

SENSEI... THANK YOU.

WHY DID YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND TO COME ALONG?

WH-WHAT.

THE THREE OF YOU WERE MOVING THE KOTOS THE WHOLE TIME?!

And here I was thinking you'd all be late!

HIRO-SENPAI, TAKEZOU-SENPAI.

AND SENSEI?!

YEAH, WE ARRIVED EARLY SO WE DECIDED TO BRING THE INSTRUMENTS OUT HERE.

HA...

AH, HELLO. I AM THE CLUB ADVISOR, TAKINAMI.

SORRY FOR TAKING UP YOUR TIME WITH THIS TRIP.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

LET'S MOVE THE KOTOS INTO THE CAR!

ALRIGHT.

FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON?

I'M JUST SUDDENLY INTERESTED IN THE CLUB'S FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

SFX THUMP

SFX DUN

MAKE SURE YOU GUYS HOLD ONTO THE KOTOS.

.....

AHAHA, SIT TIGHT. HERE WE GO–

I'M SHORTER.

LET'S SWITCH SEATS.

NAH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. WE'LL JUST TREAT THIS AS OUR EXERCISE!

ONWARD TO AOHARU INN~!!!

VROOM

AL- ALRIGHTY ~EEE

*NOTE: KOTO MEMBERS ARE PLAYING A GAME DEALING WITH SYLLABLES. EACH PERSON THINKS OF A WORD STARTING WITH THE ENDING SYLLABLE OF THE PRECEDING WORD SINCE THE ORIGINAL MANGA IS IN JAPANESE, THE DIRECT ENGLISH TRANSLATION AS FOLLOWED DOES NOT WORK *

FOUR-EYES.

GASTRO-PTOSIS (IKASU).

AD- (I-)

SQUID NOODLES!

...WATER SPIRIT ...

„SHIT!

SQUIR-REL!

...DRYAD (KI NO YOUSEI) ...

REL- (SU)

STEAK! (SUTEKI)

IS THERE ANY WAY I CAN PRACTICE RIGHT NOW?

WHY NOT LISTEN TO THIS SINCE WE HAVE THE TIME?

WHAT'S THAT?

YO, TAKEZOU.

YUP. WE CAN-

YOUR PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE.

I RECORDED IT.

WHAT?!

!

O-OUR PERFOR-MANCE?!

REALLY? I WANNA LISTEN!

!

W-WHEN WAS THIS... MORE LIKE... WHY?

HEH.

IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING ADVISOR-LIKE, YOU WOULD MAKE ME LOSE MY POSITION.

?

WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

AH, NOTHING...

BESIDES, AREN'T ALL OF YOU WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AIMING FOR THE NATIONALS?

I'VE SAID IT BEFORE. KNOWING THE REALITY OF WHERE YOU GUYS STAND IS IMPORTANT.

KURATA, IT'S NOT ALL ON YOU BUT ON EVERYONE ELSE TOO.

!

!

nervous

nervous

OUR PERFORMANCE...

YUP~ I CAN'T WAIT!

HURRY UP AND PLAY IT! I WANNA LISTEN!

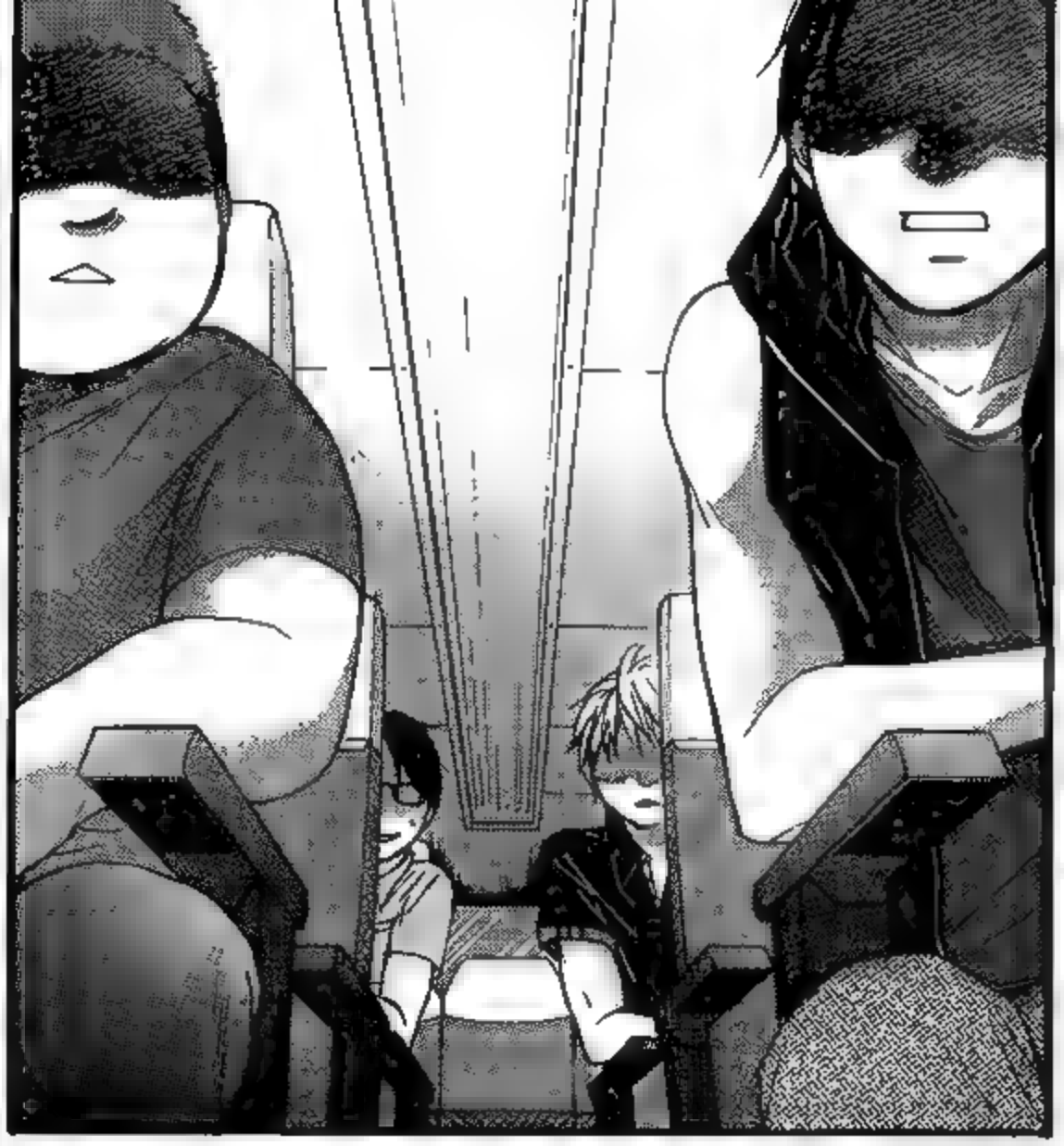
NERVOUS

DVD

NOW PLAYING

VROOM

NOW PLAYING
I-T...



I WANNA DIG A HOLE AND HIDE!!
UGH
IM GETTING A HEADACHE FROM ALL THE WRONG NOTES BUNCHED UP TOGETHER...
IT'S EMBAR-RASS-ING AS HELL!!
OKAY, ENOUGH! PRESS STOP.

EVEN THOUGH I KNEW I SUCK...
IT'S MORE SHITTY THAN I THOUGHT...
LISTENING TO IT LIKE THIS ISN'T COOL...

It sucks...
So noobx
GAH! GAH GAH!
RHYTHM IS ALSO NONEXIS-TENT!
WAIT, WAIT, IT'S OUT OF TUNE AGAIN!!
Seriously?

OUR PLAYING EVEN HINDERED HOUTSUKI-SAN'S BEAUTIFUL NOTES.

THERE ARE SO MANY MESSED UP NOTES THAT WE FAILED TO CATCH AT FIRST.

I WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE MORE OR LESS IN TUNE. BUT NOW THAT I LISTEN CLOSELY, OUR PITCH WAS ALL OVER THE PLACE.

HIMESAKA WAS REALLY GOOD...

ESPECIALLY AFTER HEARING HIMESAKA'S PERFORMANCE, I FEEL EVEN LESS QUALIFIED.

!

WHAT SHOULD I DO... IT WOULD'VE SOUNDED A LOT BETTER IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME...

BUT WE WON.

THEY WERE FROM MY KOTO.

THE WRONG NOTES CAN BE HEARD AFTER ALL...

MY NOTES REALLY WERE TERRIBLE...

SHINE

BUT THE FACT WE'RE ABLE TO TELL HOW SHITTY IT IS ALREADY MAKES US A WINNER.

HUH ...?

OUR PERFORMANCE DID SUCK.

FUCK OFF.

WE'RE DOOMED. OUR SHITTY PERFORMANCE IS MAKING CHIKA ALL WEIRD IN THE HEAD.

SEE, WE'LL WIN.

VICTORY WILL THEN BE OURS!

SO THEN, WE CAN ALL PRACTICE HARD AND PROGRESSIVELY GET BETTER AT PRACTICE CAMP.

WE FINALLY KNOW OUR LEVEL AFTER HEARING THIS.

YOU'RE TOO GOOD!

AHA HAHA.

Your face alone pisses me off.

PRACTICE = TURN POWERFUL = VICTORY... YOUR OPTIMISM HAS COMPLETELY OVERLOOKED ALL THE SETBACKS.

I have to worship that.

YOU'VE COMPLETELY OMITTED ALL SORTS OF THE PROBLEMS WE'RE GOING TO ENCOUNTER DURING PRACTICE...

AH... AMAZING ...

DISTRESS...

Haha

REALLY?

INDEED, IT ISN'T A BAD THING THAT WE'RE ABLE TO PINPOINT OUR FAULTS.

WE NOW HAVE MORE ADVANTAGES IN KNOWING WHERE TO PERFECT OUR TECHNIQUES.

YUP! THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVE-MENT!

LET'S BE EVEN MORE MOTIVATED TO WORK HARD AT OUR CAMP'S PRACTICE SESSIONS!

REPLA-YING FOR THE SECOND TIME!

WE GOT THIS!

LET ME COVER MY EARS FIRST.

HEY!!!

IT... IT MAKES SENSE!

AWE-AWESOME!

THEN LET'S PLAY THE RECORDING ONE MORE TIME AND TAKE NOTES ON WHAT WE NEED TO IMPROVE.

YEAH!

CLENCH

WOW...

KONO

Dizzy

Hang in there!

Headaches from all the listening~

Need help?

Are you Okay?

Ta-da

WE'RE FINA-LLY HERE !!!

SWEET, WE MADE IT TO AOHARU INN!!

YOSH!

ALRIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO PRACTICE RIGHT AFTER UNPACKING!

THIS PLACE IS YOURS FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

FEEL FREE TO PRACTICE!

There will be people using this place on the third day.

SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE...

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

CALL ME OVER IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS.

FIRST, LET US SPLIT INTO PAIRS PRACTICE IN DIFFERENT ROOMS BEFORE JOINING TOGETHER.

OKAY, LIKE WE SAID IN THE CAR, PRACTICE THE PARTS THAT NEED IMPROVING.

Houtsuki-chan, you're changing?

Y-yeah.

Found some sweets!

KOUTA, TODAY'S PRACTICE SESSION WILL BE VERY INTENSE!

SALUTE

YES, MADAM!

KAY'! LET'S WORK HARD FOR THE SAKE OF BETTER KOTO NOTES!

OKAY!

LET'S GET MOVING, MITTSU!

Tie

"OUR PLAYING EVEN HINDERED HOUTSUKI-SAN'S BEAUTIFUL NOTES."

PLACE

UNTIE

Kacha

kacha

Kacha

ANDANTE
ANDANTINO
MODERATO
ALLEGRETTO
ALLEGRO
ASSAI
VIVACE
VIVACE
PRESTO
PRESTISSIMO

ALTHOUGH IT'LL ONLY TAKE A LITTLE MORE TO BE WITHIN GRASP,

I STILL FEEL LIKE IT'S FAR FROM REACH.

WE IMPROVED A LOT FROM LAST TIME.

BUT THE ARTICULATION IS STILL LACKING.

The tempo is still a bit slow.

WHO ARE YOU REFER-RING TO?!

GLARE

Fuck.

NAILING YOU DOWN.

THAT BASTARD REALLY KNOWS HOW TO FIND FAULTS.

HAHA.

I'M ENCOU-RAGING THE STUDENTS TO PRACTICE AT THEIR OWN DISCRETION.

CHILL

ARE YOU TAKING A BREAK, SENSEI?

DON'T YOU NEED TO GO INSTRUCT THE STUDENTS?

Hahaha

I'm really sorry. We'll pay.

JUST AS I THOUGHT...

TRUE—I'M ACTUALLY LOSING PROFIT!!

Haha

IS THAT SO.

IS THIS REALLY ALRIGHT?

AFTER ALL, YOU COULD CHOOSE TO BE MAKING A LOT OF PROFIT DURING THIS BUSY SEASON INSTEAD OF LENDING THIS PLACE TO THE KIDS.

BUT WHEN I FIRST STARTED THIS BUSINESS, MY BROTHER—

AH, HIRO'S FATHER THAT IS, HAD HELPED ME TREMENDOUSLY.

FURTHERMORE, HIRO CAN ALWAYS THREATEN ME WITH SECRETS ABOUT MY SLUSH FUND. IT MAKES ME OBLIGATED TO HELP HER.

Geez, it does give me headaches.

……

ALSO...

THERE WAS A PERIOD WHEN HIRO WAS REALLY WITHDRAWN FROM OTHERS FOR MANY REASONS.

IT REALLY SURPRISED ME WHEN SHE ASKED ME A FAVOR FOR THE SAKE OF HER FRIENDS.

I KNOW IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN A STERN REPUTATION AS A TEACHER...

SENSEI SHOULD TOO!

I'LL BE CHEERING THEM ON ALL THE WHILE.

TO ALL THE GREAT ACHIEVE-MENTS THAT THOSE KIDS WILL ATTAIN.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD ...

SOMETIMES, IT'S BETTER TO HAVE A RELIABLE INSTRUCTOR TO PUSH THEM.

BUT KEEP IN MIND THAT THEY'RE STILL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

CLINK

CHIRP

CHIRP

I'D TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERA-TION.

SO WRONG !!!

WRONG!

PEOPLE CAN EASILY TELL IF WE DON'T PLAY THESE MEASURES CORRECTLY. C'MON, LET'S PERFECT THEM!

ONE MORE TIME!

KOUTA, YOU'RE TOO SLOW THIS TIME!

BEFORE, YOU WERE TOO FAST! IF YOU CAN'T GET THE HANG OF THE RHYTHM, THEN KEEP AN EYE ON MY HANDS AND FOLLOW MY LEAD!

OH, OKAY!

BAM

HOUTSUKI, PLAY THIS SET AND THAT SET FOR ME.

I CAN'T PLAY THEM SMOOTHLY AT ALL, SO DEMONSTRATE.

!

KU-KUDOU?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING...

I NEED TO CAPTURE THE RIGHT ANGLE OR ELSE I WON'T BE FINGERING CORRECTLY.

SLIDE UP

I-IS THAT SO...

AREN'T YOU SITTING TOO CLOSE?

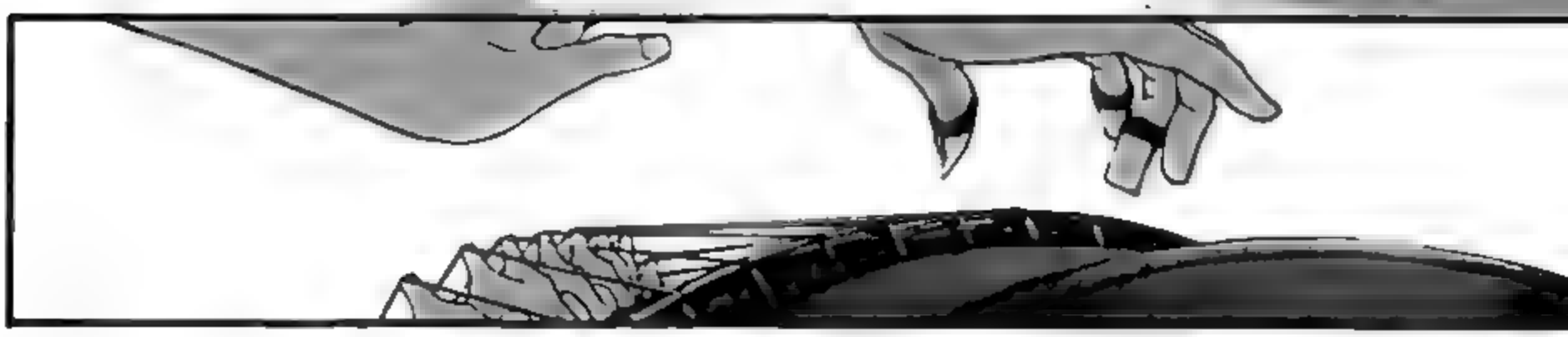
I'D DEMONSTRATE BUT...

DOES HE MEAN THESE THREE SETS?

LET ME SEE...

PLAY IT AGAIN.

EH?



I GOT IT NOW. THANKS.

YOUR KOTO NOTES REALLY ARE BEAUTIFUL.

"WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CHASE LIKE CRAZY."

"SATOWA-SAN, WE'RE GONNA DO OUR BEST!"

I—

I WON'T LET THIS SPIRIT DIE.

CAN'T BELIEVE SHE MAKES EVERYTHING EASIER.

I HAVE TO USE THE INDEX FINGER BEFORE HOOKING IT WITH THE THUMB.

SO THAT'S IT...

LISTEN CLOSE-LY!!

DIDN'T I SAY IT'S NOT LIKE THAT?!

KOUTA, YOU'RE NOT COUN-TING YOUR HALF NOTES!

IT GOES LIKE TE TA TA TA TA TA TA, GET IT?

GOT IT.

THEN AGAIN!

KEEP PRACTI-CING UNTIL IT'S PER-FECT!

YES.

.....

WHAT SHOULD I DO...

NO MATTER WHAT I DO, HE'S NOT GETTING IT

UGH—

WRONG AGAIN!

GOOD LUCK...

IS IT THIS HARD TO CONTROL THE RHYTHM?

OR IS MY TEACHING METHOD THE PROBLEM?

Sigh

AT THE MAIN ROOM.

GET READY TO GROUP BACK

Clap

Clap

Clap

Clap

MIZUHARA-KUN, YOU CAME IN TOO EARLY!

YOU'VE JUST MESSED UP THE RHYTHM!

STOP! YOU'RE STILL TOO EARLY!

SO-

SORRY!

IT'S OKAY. LET'S START FROM THE BEGINNING AGAIN.

THE AT-MOSPHERE'S A BIT STRAINED ...

HOUTSUKI-SAN, SHOULDN'T WE JUST CONTINUE ON WITH THE NEXT PART?

PAN
PAN
RIGHT...
THEN...
AH...
TODAY I FOCUSED ON HITTING EACH NOTE WITH MORE STRENGTH, SO I GUESS MY NOTES GRADUALLY BECAME DISTINCT ENOUGH...
IT FEELS GOOD TO PRODUCE VIBRANT NOTES.
YOU THINK SO?
GREAT JOB, SAKAI-KUN! YOU'VE ALREADY MASTERED THE STACCATO?
LET'S CONTINUE.
TURN TO PAGE 14... STARTING FROM THE THIRD NOTE OF THE FIRST MEASURE...
Practice makes perfect
SO CHEESY, MITTSU!!
HEH.

READY, SET... PLAY.

AH...

THE NEXT PART IS THE ONE KUDOU ASKED ABOUT.

I HOPE HE IMPROVED FROM THE LAST TIME...

SO-

SORRY... I MESSED UP AG—

Jolt

EH.

KU-DOU,

DIDN'T YOU HAVE TROUBLE WITH THAT PART BEFORE?

HUH?

HE PICKED IT UP FROM WATCHING ONLY?

!

THAT'S WHY I SOUGHT YOUR HELP.

IT'S THANKS TO YOUR FIN-GERINGS.

SERIOUS-LY, MAN!

CHIKA-CHAN, AMAZING JOB!

INCREDIBLE, KUDOU-KUN! I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING...!

FWSSSH

PHEW.

I'VE BEEN SCOLDING TOO MUCH. MY THROAT HURTS.

YOU'VE WORKED HARD.

HOUTSUKI-CHAN, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS WORKED HARD.

YOU'RE PUTTING IN YOUR ALL, WHETHER YOU'RE CONDUCTING THE WHOLE GROUP OR PRACTICING ALONE.

IT'S ONLY...

ONLY?

IT'S ALSO MY FIRST TIME PLAYING "KU-ON".

SO... I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE HOW TO APPROACH ITS MEANING...

THE SONG'S MEANING...?

NOT-NOTHING.

...SORRY.

MAKES ME WONDER IF WE WERE BEING TOO HARSH...

HE WAS SCOLDED BY BOTH YOU AND ME...

ABOUT THAT ...

IS KOUTA-KUN OKAY?

THAT REMINDS ME.

OH, YEAH.

I...WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO TRY MY BEST.

SPLASH

WAIT, STOP IT.

LEMME FEEL THEM!!

HOUTSUKI-CHAN, HOW DOES ONE GET HUGE JUGS LIKE THOSE?!

TOMORROW I WILL CONTINUE TO SCOLD LIKE A MAD WOMAN UNTIL HE GETS IT RIGHT!

BUT EVERYTHING WILL GO DOWN THE DRAIN IF WE'RE NOT STRICT ABOUT IT!

RISE

SNORE

SNORE

YO...!

CHI-KA-CHAN...

NO THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM

WAKE UP, CHI-KA-CHAN!

HUH?

I THOUGHT HE WAS IN THE BATH-ROOM, BUT HE'S NOT THERE EITHER!

JUST NOW, WHEN I WOKE UP TO USE THE BATHROOM, KOUTA WAS GONE.

HUH?

I LOOKED IN ALL THE OTHER ROOMS

BEFORE REALIZING THAT...

I CAN'T FIND KOUTA ANYWHERE!!!

GONE...

KOUTA'S STUFF IS ALSO...

CHIKA ...?!

WHAT NOW.

KOUTA RAN AWAY...

AN UNEXPECTED RUNAWAY...?!

6巻に
続く。

小学4年生の夏休み
～チカ編～
ジーワジーワ
おいコラチカ！
おめーの宿題だろちゃんとやれや
ムリ俺あつくて生きるのにせーいっぱい
今日から32アイスクリームで夏の5段重ねキャンペーン開始!!

ご…5段重ね…!!?
てつきっこれ食いに行こう！
今すぐっ
あ？

お前の宿題あるからムリ
…ガキ…

小学4年生の夏休み
～たけぞー編～
武蔵 夏休みの宿題は？
夏休み初日に全部終わったよ
あら じゃあ自由研究は？
ペットボトルで飛行機を作ったよ
わ…我が子ながらしっかりし過ぎてて逆に心配だわ…
始業式当日
マメ子にひこうぎ壊された…
あ… 何か安心する…

おわり

倉田武流

誕生日：12月27日
星　座：山羊座
血液型：A型
身　長：170cm
体　重：59kg
兄　弟：兄が一人
好きなもの：ジャンクフード
苦手なもの：酢の物
学校が休みの日は：適当

⚠ 昔はどちらかと言うと
お兄ちゃんっ子だったようです。
大笑いすることは
ほとんどありません。

久遠衣咲

誕生日：11月30日
星　座：射手座
血液型：O型
身　長：164cm
体　重：最近量ってないから分かんない
兄　弟：兄が一人
好きなもの：酒
苦手なもの：無駄にシャレた物
休日は：寝てるか思いっ切り金を遣いに外に出るか

⚠ 寝る時は裸なので、たまにそのまま部屋から出て来て愛に目撃され、怒られます。

凰かずさ

誕生日：6月7日
星　座：双子座
血液型：ＡＢ型
身　長：155cm
体　重：40kg
兄　弟：妹が一人
好きなもの：見た目が可愛いお菓子
苦手なもの：グロテスクな物
休日は：さとわちゃんの演奏を聴いたり
お稽古したり
史ちゃんとお買い物に行ったり
⚠思い込みが激しく突っ走り気味です。
今まで好きになった男の人は
いません。

花村 史

誕生日：10月29日
星　座：蠍座
血液型：B型
身　長：157cm
体　重：42kg
兄　弟：姉と妹が一人ずつ
好きなもの：お肉と野菜
苦手なもの：魚卵
休日は：箏の練習
　　家の手伝い
　　かずさと出かける

⚠ かずさのツッコミ役ですが、
本人も何気にズレた所があります。

SPECIAL THANKS

夕希 実久 様　木村 聡 様　木ノ下 奈史 様
岡野 コエ 様　壱川 七宇 様　平浜 矢陸 様
浅月 舞 様　遠藤 達哉 様　朝吹 まり 様
市川 るさ 様　中村 亜也 様　（順不同）

毎月 本当に
ありがとうございます！
おかげ様で いつも楽しく
原稿ができます！

担当編集
林 士平 様
ポジティブパワー！

コミックス編集　黒木 竜介 様
コミックスデザイン　石野 竜生 様
いつも ありがとうございます！

この本に携わって下さった
全ての皆様
そして読んで下さった
皆様
本当にありがとうございました…!!

家族
友だち
がっつり助けられてます！
いつもの感謝です

6巻も
よろしくお願い
いたします!!!
うおー6巻…！
奇跡だ…！

この音とまれ！

5巻

アミュー

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CHAPTER 16

TRANSLATOR
SUPERSLEUTHER

PROOFREADER
ARI

CLEANER/REDRAWER
SAR

COLOR PAGE TOUCH-UPS
CAT

TYPESETTERS
JAE & POT

QUALITY CHECKER
JAE

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CHAPTER 17

TRANSLATOR
SUPERSLEUTHER

PROOFREADER
ARI

CLEANERS/REDRAWERS
AKI & WYNNE

TYPESETTER
JAE

QUALITY CHECKER
JAE

OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS,
FRIED SQUID SCANS RECEIVED 0 APPLICANT.
SORRY... BUT SLOW UPDATES WILL PERSIST.

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KONO OTO TOMARE!

CHAPTER 18

TRANSLATOR
SUPERSLEUTHER

PROOFREADER
JAE

CLEANER/REDRAWER
WYNNE

TYPESETTER
ETHYL

QUALITY CHECKER
JAE

THIS IS TRANSLATOR SUPERSLEUTHER'S LAST CONTRIBUTION! SHE OFFICIALLY RESIGNED! WE NOW NEED A CHINESE OR JAPANESE TRANSLATOR TO HELP US OUT WITH THIS SERIES!
NO TRANSLATOR=NO RELEASE

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CHAPTER 19

TRANSLATOR
JAE

PROOFREADER
ARI

CLEANER/REDRAWER
WYNNE

TYPESETTER
ETHYL

QUALITY CHECKER
JAE

HAPPY 1ST ANNIVERSARY TO US SQUIDDIES!
IN COMMEMORATION, EXPECT CHAPTER 20
TO BE UPDATED TOMORROW!!!